



# THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**ROBERT GORDON SPROUL**  
*President of the University*

November 20, 1951

Mr. Walter B. Smith, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Smith:

The matter of extending Dr. Raymond J. Sontag's leave for service with the Central Intelligence Agency has been taken up with the Department and with the appropriate dean. This was necessary because of the need for a replacement to take over Dr. Sontag's course. I am happy to say that arrangements can be made and that an extension of his leave until June 30, 1952 will be presented to the Regents with a recommendation for favorable action.

I fully realize the present critical importance of the program on which Dr. Sontag is engaged and his unique fitness for the task assigned to him. However, he is one of our distinguished men in History and his absence naturally weakens the departmental program. We hope therefore to have him back with us not later than the fall semester of 1952. His return at that time is particularly important because of the contemplated absence of certain departmental members on sabbatical leave.

Yours sincerely,

NOV 29 1951  
NE-5

NOV 7 1951

Dr. Robert G. Sproull  
President  
The University of California  
Berkeley, California

My dear Dr. Sproull:

In your letter of January 20, 1951, you were good enough to agree to a leave of absence for Dr. Raymond J. Sontag in order that he might serve in this Agency in a position of importance and responsibility.

Dr. Sontag's high professional competence has been invaluable to us and it is felt here that he has made a marked contribution to the CIA in the fulfillment of its mission. We are therefore very grateful for your cooperation and willingness to grant him leave to help us.

Since you have expressed also your readiness to recommend extended leave for Dr. Sontag for the whole of the academic year 1951-52, I would appreciate your granting him an extension to July 1952. At this stage of our development, particularly in the work which Dr. Sontag has been doing, a continuity of highly qualified personnel at the top level is urgently necessary.

Your favorable consideration of this request will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER B. SMITH  
Director

OAD/NE:fd  
Distribution:  
Addressee  
WCI w/basic  
Dr. Sontag  
AD/NE

*Official*

*Consent*

# *Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Central Intelligence  
Via: Assistant Director, O/NE  
FROM : Raymond J. Sontag, O/NE  
SUBJECT: Leave of Absence

DATE: 5 November 1951

1. The University of California has expressed the hope that I will return to my teaching duties in February 1952, and has asked for an early decision so that my name may be included in the class schedule for the spring term.

2. When leave of absence was granted me last January, President Sproul promised that, if necessary, he would recommend that the leave be extended to July 1952.

3. My appointment with CIA was for one year, to January 1952. If the Director wishes, I am prepared to remain the maximum time permitted by the leave of absence granted me by the University of California, to July 1952.

4. As the University schedule is to go to press very shortly, I hope that the Director can make an early decision on the extension of my appointment.

[Redacted Signature Box]

Raymond J. Sontag

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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1	IC/NE	1084	8 Jan
2	Executive Registry	43	1/8
3	Mr. Becker	CB	1/8
4	ER		
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Adm. Officer, O/NE	JS	8 Jan.
2			
3			

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<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

REMARKS: Attached letter from Dr. Sproul returned per request of your office.

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1	Asst. to DCI	JSE/dr	27 Nov 51
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REMARKS:

Noted on DCI Log. I assume we will  
get a final reply from Dr. Sproul?

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